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OLDEST AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATION IN THE STATE.

The Maryland Farmer.

A Weekly for the Farmer, Fruit-Grower & Stock-Raiser.

Vol. XXVIII.

BALTIMORE, January 2, 1891.

No. 1.

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"Headache, to which I am subject, is invariably cured by a dose or two of Ayer's Pills."—George Rodee, Homer, Cortland Co., N. Y.

"Ayer's Pills are the best I have ever used for headaches, and they act like a charm in relieving any disagreeable sensation in the stomach after eating."—Mrs. M. J. Ferguson, Pullens, Va.

"I have been affected, for years, with headache and indigestion, and though I spent nearly a fortune in medicines, I never found any relief until I began to take Ayer's Pills. Six bottles of these Pills completely cured me."—Benjamin Harper, Plymouth, Montserrat, W. I.

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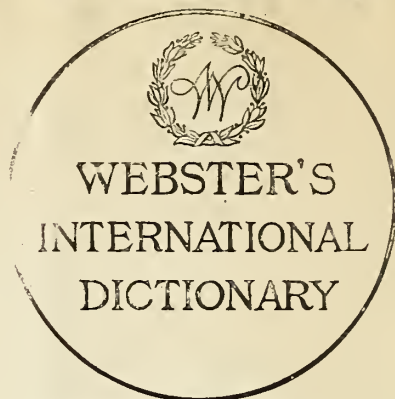
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A LONG WINTER

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The Maryland Farmer.

Vol. XXVIII.

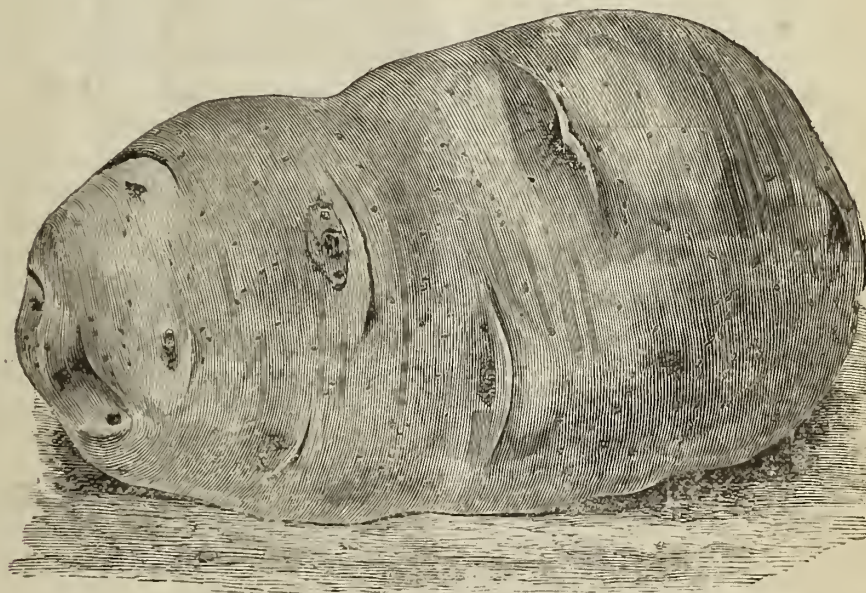
BALTIMORE, January 2, 1891.

No. 1.

POTATOES.

In commenting upon the results of its prize potato contests the *American Agriculturist* says: It is interesting to note that the largest crops come on the one hand from the far West, Wyoming, Colorado, and Washington, and on the other from the extreme East, Aroostook county, in the most northern and eastern part of Maine. It seems noteworthy, too, that so many should be grouped in one country, the soil of which, while gravelly, is apparently rich in potash and hence especially adapted to the potato, though many small crops were secured there as elsewhere. It is therefore safe to assume that the success in these cases is principally due to the intelligence and systematic methods of cultivation followed by the contestants during the entire season.

especially avoid selecting them from the same successful crops grown year after year in one vicinity; for, after a time, the yield of the crop and the size of the tubers become noticeably reduced, until, at last, every tuber will be undersized and weak. In other words, the vitality of the seed will "run out," and the plants degenerate, because the poorest and weakest seed had been continuously selected to grow new crops from, instead of the strong, well-developed, mature tubers. Whether the seed is planted whole or cut, preference is given to have it slightly sprouted before planting; but where seed is to be cut, it should be done before the sprouts start. All seed not sprouted at planting time should be rejected; otherwise, there will be an apparently unaccountable number of blanks. The depth of covering the seed has



Cutting the seed potatoes into sets of two eyes has given the best general satisfaction, although the method of simply cutting off the seed end and planting the remainder, as practiced by Mr. Chisholm, has been crowned with remarkable success, and it is worth experimenting with, where dry rot is known to occur. It is almost the universal verdict now that it is better to select large or medium sized potatoes, of the best quality obtainable, for seed purposes, because they are better developed in form, contain a larger proportion of starch and greater vegetative vitality than small unmerchantable tubers. Many of the most successful contestants particularly state that they have used the best large to medium-sized tubers they could obtain. Successful potato growers everywhere almost unanimously avoid small, unsalable potatoes for seed, and

varied from not less than two to not more than seven inches, according to the character of the soil. Experience has shown that it is not advisable to plant before the weather is favorable; seed planted under unfavorable conditions is apt to become chilled and rot in the ground, and so leave many blanks. What does come up is weak and slow in growing; whereas, good seed, planted at the proper time, will come up with very few blanks and will rapidly outgrow that planted too early, and will also yield a heavier and better crop. Planting the seed directly on stable manure is fraught with danger. It may, by overheating, or by direct contact with the ammonia, to cause premature rotting of cut seed. It is also thought to be apt to injure the skin of the young tubers, and

(Continued on next page.)

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL,
HORTICULTURAL AND STOCK-RAISING INTERESTS.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

BARRETT C. CATLIN, Publisher.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 2d, 1891.

POTATOES. (Continued.)

thereby promote the formation of scabby potatoes:

The different varieties grown on the prize winning acres of the next successful contestants were: Early Rose, Manhattan, Early Vermont, Rural New Yorker, No. 2, Garne Chli, Polaris, Empire State, Dakota Red, Burclays Prolific Beel, New Minister.

The experience of the 1889 contest is again confirming, that highly concentrated commercial fertilizers are better, as a rule, than stable manure, if they are put into the drills or furrows directly with the seed; the quality used, however, must be regulated according to the character of the soil and its actual condition at the time of planting. While some land can assimilate two thousand pounds of fertilizer, or more, to the benefit of the growing crop, in other cases five hundred to one thousand pounds would be plenty, and much larger quantities would induce an enormous development of foliage, at the expense of the young tubers.

SETTING OUT FRUIT TREES.—There are several reasons why in setting out young fruit trees they should not be set deep in the soil, says a writer. 1. A deep hole is liable to become partly filled with water, to the detriment of the growth, and causing it to become baked in summer drouth. 2. The soil is more likely to be thrown in with the spade in large lumps and masses. 3. Deep planting is often adopted as a remedy for short roots which have been cut in digging, instead of long horizontal roots which will hold and brace the tree. A stratum of finely pulverized soil six inches thick, is better than a foot of hard lumps as large as bricks. Depth in planting is frequently supposed to obviate staking trees, to hold them stiff in their position, while plenty of long horizontal roots is better than either or both. As some planter has remarked, if the roots are set near the surface, the small fibers can strike downwards if there be a good bed of soil beneath, but little benefit is derived by their striking upwards to the surface. A mellow surface soil is important, serving as a mulch and maintaining moisture for the roots. A hard or baked crust especially if allowed to become infested with grass and weeds, is often fatal to success of growth.

EDITORIAL.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE MARYLAND FARMER wishes its friends a happy new year, and begs to remind them that this is the season when it is in order to turn over a new leaf and resolve to lead a better and a higher life. One of the best aids to the proper conduct of a farmer's life is a good agricultural paper, and in this connection we modestly suggest the FARMER as coming within that category. In common with the rest of mankind, with the beginning of a new year and a new volume, we have made a number of good resolutions, among them that we will do our best to furnish the farmers of this State with a live Agricultural paper.

HOG CHOLERA.

Complaints are coming in from all over the country as to the alarming prevalence of hog cholera. This disease is similar to typhoid fever in the human family. A Kansas hog breeder thinks he has discovered in the spirits of turpentine a sure cure for cholera. He rubs the spirits well in the animal's hide, particularly along its back, at the same time giving it small doses of the turpentine.

BET ROOT CULTURE.

Dr. A. S. Heath a practical American farmer, now traveling in France, will contribute during the year to the *Weekly Tribune* a series of letters upon the farming methods of the French. The first of the series has just appeared and is of especial interest to American farmers, touching as it does upon the beet and wheat crops. Our people just now are beginning to take much interest in the cultivation of the beet. The bounty offered by the government to the manufacturers of home made sugar, has acted as a powerful stimulus to farmers and manufacturers interested in the production of sugar. In California, beet root culture has already assumed very respectable proportions. The beet sugar factory at Grand Island, Nebraska, has proved a success. The Oxnard Beet Sugar Company has just made a contract for a big sugar factory which will turn out over fifty tons of sugar daily and have entered into a contract with a California ranch owner, whereby he engages to plant 2500 acres in sugar beets this season, and 5000 acres every year thereafter. Dr. Heath says, that the thorough tillage for the beet helps the wheat and succeeding crops. He contends that the low and unprofitable average of our wheat, barley and oat crops can be raised by the generous cultivation of beets, and the fast failing elements of our once fertile soil be restored. In France about twenty-seven millions of acres are devoted to grain growing and as the beet precedes the wheat, probably twenty millions of acres are given to its growth. Half of the 950000 acres of Flanders are farmed to beet and wheat. The farmers of the United States will gladly hail any opportunity to diversify their products and better their condition, and it would seem now that beet root culture under the present state of affairs offered a great field for the agriculturists of this country.

EXPERIENCE WITH ENSILAGE

Under this head a North Carolina correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes: Your Maryland correspondent, p. 992, need not feel worried on account of Dr. Sharp's onslaught on the practice in the MARYLAND FARMER. Dr. Sharp never made any ensilage, never fed any, but has waked up to the fact that farmers all round him are making and feeding it successfully. In the doctor's opinion this is all wrong, and they have no business being successful, for it is contrary to his theory. The largest co-operative dairy company in Maryland is composed of farmers who feed ensilage. They sell the best milk that is sold in Baltimore, as I know from personal experience, having bought it when living there, and raised healthy babies on it. My family used for many years, and still use, milk from ensilage-fed cows.

I know many of the larger farmers in Maryland who feed ensilage, and have never heard of one abandoning the practice, and never heard of any one but Dr. Sharp who has ever heard of such a thing. On the contrary, I am continually hearing of farmers starting siloes in Maryland and southward. In North Carolina they are being built by the hundred, and none have ever been abandoned. The only man I ever heard of who tried ensilage and quit it, was a flighty genius in Virginia who tries something new every year and sticks at nothing. He tried ensilage without cutting it first, and never made any more. Those who make good ensilage find that they cannot afford to farm without it. I would as soon undertake to farm without a stable as without a silo.

Our Maryland friend will find that the opposition to ensilage always comes from men like Dr. Sharp who know nothing practically about it, and will argue till doomsday about what they think *must* be the case, without ever attempting to find out practically what *is* the case.

THE year just past has seen some severe financial shocks but on the whole the commercial world has withstood them nobly, and is fast recovering its normal condition. Although the new year begins with considerable timidity and distrust, yet it is evident that the downward tendency has been checked and with conservative management from now on the condition of the business community should steadily improve.

"MR. BARRETT C. CATLIN—May the MARYLAND FARMER be found in every farmer's home in the State." This was the Christmas greeting of the *Morning Herald* of this city to us, among some twenty odd columns of others, illustrated by about 250 small portraits. We appreciate the kind wish and return in like coin,—May the *Morning Herald* be found in every home in Baltimore.

WE are making arrangements by which we hope to give our readers the benefit of a complete treatise on the peach culture, with experiences of many large growers, descriptions of how to ward off and cure yellows and other diseases peculiar to the peach. The author is John Willcox, a well-known New Jersey Horticulturist. We also promise papers by Prof. T. L. Brunk, of the Agricultural College, upon this subject.

David Smith has purchased and shipped from Centreville station over 60,000 bushels of corn, nearly six times the quantity shipped last year. The corn crop of Queen Anne's county is not large this year, yet it far exceeds that of last year.

THE Farmers' Convention to be held in Bel Air, January 9th, will be addressed by Prof. H. E. Alvord, of the Maryland Agricultural College; Prof. Robert Ward, Chief Veterinary inspector of Maryland, and others.

PENINSULA HORTICULTURAL MEETING.

Preliminary arrangements for the meeting of the Peninsula Horticultural Society in Easton are being made, and good results are expected to come from the gathering and interchanging of ideas of those who are practical men in the special subjects to be discussed. Committees which will report at the meeting have been chosen, and are as follows:

New Fruits—Dr. Henry Ridgely, Dover; E. W. Bancroft, Camden; H. W. Vickers, Chestertown; R. S. Griffith, Sassafras; D. W. Corbet, Odessa; W. H. Case, Felton; S. H. Messick, Bridgeville.

Nomenclature—J. W. Kerr, F. D. Chester, I. H. Wright.

Peaches—J. Alex. Fulton, Esq., Dover; Charles Wright, Seaford; J. P. K. Polk, Esq.

Pears—John Bell, Chertertown; E. R. Cochran, Middletown; J. A. Pearce, Esq., Chestertown; J. H. Myer, Bridgeville.

Apples—J. G. Brown, Wyoming; Geo. Biddle, Cecilton; N. Barnard, Still Pond.

Grapes—J. D. Scout, Smyrna; J. L. Banning, Easton; John S. Barnhart, Denton.

Small Fruits—A. W. Slaymaker, Camden; J. B. Gilchrist, Milford; John Barwick, Kent county.

Marketing Fruit—Col. E. L. Martin, Seaford; A. W. Brown; P. Emerson.

Fertilizers—J. S. Harris, Still Pond; A. L. Hudson; J. C. Phillips, Salisbury.

Floriculture—Dr. R. Hargadie; C. Cox Hopper, Chestertown; Dr. E. Lewis.

Vegetables—Paynter Frame, Geo. W. McNeath, Thos. L. Townsend.

Injurious Insects—Prof. Beckwith, of Delaware Experimental Station.

Nut-bearing Trees—A. J. Wilson, Easton; L. P. Cowgill; J. A. Fulton.

Each county has a vice president, who will be called upon to report upon the fruit industry in his county.

Card orders entitling the holder to reduced railroad rates can be secured by addressing the secretary, Wesley Webb, Dover, Del.

A. J. Wilson and J. L. Banning are the committee to make the local arrangements for hotel, for hall, and for address of welcome.

FUNK & WAGNALLS of New York, have issued the prospectus of their "Standard Dictionary of the English Language." The dictionary will introduce a number of new features, and if carried out according to the plan proposed, will be an invaluable addition to the literature of the country.

CHAS. L. WEBSTER & Co., New York City, are publishing an admirable "Cyclopedia of Religious Knowledge," edited by Rev. E. B. Sanford, M. A., with a corps of valuable assistants. It is unsectarian, and possesses other qualities that make it necessary to workers in this field.

SALTING BACON.

For hogs weighing not over 125 or 130 pounds each, one bushel of fine salt, two pounds of brown sugar and one pound of saltpeter will suffice for each 800 pounds of pork before the meat is cut out; but if the meat is large and thick, or weighs from 150 to 200 pounds per carcass, from a gallon to a peck more of salt and a little more of both the other articles should be taken.

Neither the sugar nor the saltpeter is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the meat, and they are often omitted. But both are preservatives; the sugar improves the flavor of the bacon, and the saltpeter gives it greater firmness and a finer color, if used sparingly. Bacon should not be so sweet as to suggest the "sugar cure"; and saltpeter, used too freely, hardens the tissues of the meat, and renders it less palatable. The quantity of salt mentioned is enough for the first salting. A little more new salt is added at the second salting, and used together with the old salt that has not been absorbed. If sugar and saltpeter are used first apply about a teaspoonful of pulverized saltpeter on the flesh side of the hams and shoulders, and then taking a little sugar in the hand apply it lightly to the flesh surface of all the pieces. A teaspoonful is enough for any one piece.

If the meat at the time of salting is moist and yielding to the touch, rubbing the skin side with the gloved hand, or the "sow's ear," as is sometimes insisted on, is unnecessary; the meat will take salt readily enough without this extra labor. But if the meat is rigid, and the weather very cold, or if the pieces are large and thick, rubbing the skin side to make it yielding and moist causes the salt to penetrate to the centre of the meat and bone. On the flesh side it is only necessary to sprinkle the salt over all the surface. Care must be taken to get some salt into every depression and into the hock end of all joints. An experienced meat salter goes over the pieces with great expedition. Taking a handful of the salt he applies it dexterously by a gliding motion of the hand to all the surface, and does not forget the hock end of the bones where the feet have been cut off. Only dry salt is used in this method of curing. The meat is never put into brine or "pickle," nor is any water added to the salt to render it more moist.

A rude platform or bench of plank is laid down on which the meat is packed as it is salted. The boy hands the pieces to the packer, who lays down first a course of middlings and then sprinkles a little more salt on all the places that do not appear to have quite enough. Next comes a layer of shoulders, and then another layer of middlings, until all these pieces have been laid. From time to time a little more salt is added, as appears to be necessary. The hams are reserved for the top layer, the object being to prevent them from becoming too salt. In a large bulk of meat the brine, as it settles down, lodges upon the lower pieces, and some of them get rather more than their quota of salt. Too much saltiness spoils the hams as first-class bacon. In fact, it spoils any meat to have it too salt, but it requires less to spoil the hams, because, as a rule, they are mostly lean meat. The jowles, heads and livers, on account of the quantity of blood about them, are put in separate pile, after being salted. The chins

and spare-ribs are but slightly salted and laid on top of the bulk of neat meat. The drippings of brine and blood from the meat are collected in buckets and sent to the compost heaps. If there are rats, they must be trapped or kept out in some way. Cats, also, should be excluded from the house. Close-fitting boxes, which some use to keep the rats from the meat, are not the best; the meat needs air.

In ten days to three weeks, according to weather and size of the meat, break bulk and resalt, using the old salt again, with just a little new salt added. In four to six weeks more, or sooner, if need be, break up and wash the meat nicely, preparatory to smoking it. Some farmers do not wash the salt off, but the meat receives smoke better and looks nicer, if washed.—*American Agriculturist*.

HOW TO SELECT A GOOD LAYER.

From an exchange we take the following hints: How many poultrymen can pick out a good laying hen from a strange flock? Not many can do it; yet it can easily be accomplished after a short study of make-up and characteristics. There goes a hen with a thick neck, large head, ill-shaped, walks listlessly about; seemingly with no purpose or intention in view. She doesn't care to scratch, but hangs around the henhouse, evidently waiting for her next feed. She gets up late in the morning, and goes to bed early in the evening. That hen may be put down as a very poor layer. The eggs of some of the other hens go to help pay her keep. Here comes another hen. She walks briskly, and there is an elasticity in her movements that denotes she has something in view. She is neat and natty in appearance, small head with a slim neck, nicely arched or curved. She forages and scratches all day long, and may be too busy to come for her evening feed. She is at the door in the morning, waiting to be let out. She snatches a few mouthfuls of feed, and is off to the meadow, looking for insects. Before she gets out in the morning she generally deposits her daily egg in the nest, or returns after a short forage. She is neat, clean, and tidy, with a brightness and a freshness pleasing to the eye. That is the hen that pays for her feed and gives a good profit all the year round. The writer has noticed these traits since boyhood, and knows that they are infallible. By studying these traits, any man may in a few years, by selection, have a fine laying flock of hens. Fanciers perforce must have good and bad layers, as they breed for feathers in the main, and the poor layer may be the bird with the fine plumage and markings. This is not wholly the case, of course, but it is partially so. In this connection mention can be made of the color of eggs. Take the Plymouth Rock as an example. They do not all lay a rich brown egg, but some of them do, and, by selecting the eggs of those that do, and selecting the chicks from those eggs that lay the desired colored egg, it is possible in the course of a few years to have a good laying flock of all brown eggs. When a cross is needed, it is most desirable to have a cockerel from a hen laying brown eggs. Poultrymen should grade up their flocks for brown eggs, as spoken of above. Cockerels can then be easily procured, one from another. These subjects are worthy of careful consideration, and they both point to a better filled purse and more satisfaction and enjoyment, for who is there that does not love a good-laying hen, with her merry cackle and brown eggs? We leave the facts for the reader to demonstrate.

Alliance Page.

While this journal is not an official organ, of the Farmers' Alliance, it is in entire sympathy with that movement and heartily believes in a thorough and systematic organization among farmers to protect their interests. In this column, Alliance news will be presented, and matters akin to that movement discussed. Correspondence is cordially invited.

The Alliance officers, in this state and their addresses are.
 President, Hugh Mitchell, Port Tobacco.
 Secretary, T. Canfield Jenkins, Pomonkey.
 State Lecturer, . . R. D. Bradley, Preston.

Profoundly impressed that we, the Farmers Alliance, united by the strong and faithful ties of financial and home interests, should set forth our declaration of intentions, we therefore resolve:

1. To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit.
2. To endorse the motto, "In things essential, unity; and in all things, charity."
3. To develop a better state, mentally, morally, socially, and financially.
4. To create a better understanding for sustaining civil officers in maintaining law and order.
5. To constantly strive to secure entire harmony and good will among all mankind, and brotherly love among ourselves.
9. To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthful rivalry and all selfish ambition.
7. The brightest jewels which it garners are the tears of widows and orphans, and its imperative commands are to visit the homes where lacerated hearts are bleeding; to assuage the sufferings of a brother or sister; bury the dead; care for the widows and educate the orphans; to exercise charity toward offenders; to construe words and deeds in their most favorable light, granting honesty of purpose and good intentions to others; and to protect the principles of the Alliance unto death. Its laws are reason and equity, its cardinal doctrines inspire purity of thought and life, its intentions are "peace on earth and good will toward men."—*From the Constitution of the Maryland State Alliance.*

THE academy at Princess Anne for the education of colored boys has been formally made a branch of the Maryland Agricultural College, so as to carry out the requirements of the bill under which the national appropriation is made.

THE statement is made on good authority that the French Canadian living near the United State line are forming organizations with a view of obtaining many of the abandoned farms of New Hampshire and also Vermont. It is believed that there will be considerable emigration from the lower part of Canada the coming season. The movement is well and committees have been sent to buy up abandoned farms.

HON. L. L. POLK, of North Carolina, National President of the Alliance, is expected to make an address in the Academy Hall, at Preston, Caroline County, soon; to which the sub alliances of the county will be invited. The Alliance in Caroline is steadily growing in numbers and interest. The administration of local affairs will be investigated by them; committees it is said are soon to be appointed for this purpose.

ALLIANCE NOTES.

THERE is quite an element in Florida that favors the third party movement, although President R. F. Rogers, of the State Alliance, is opposed to it.

THE Quitman, Ga., *Press* thinks the Alliancemen should not permit the politicians, in order to lead them away from the original purposes of the organization, namely, to build up the farming interests at home. The organization was never intended to be used for the purpose of building up politicians.

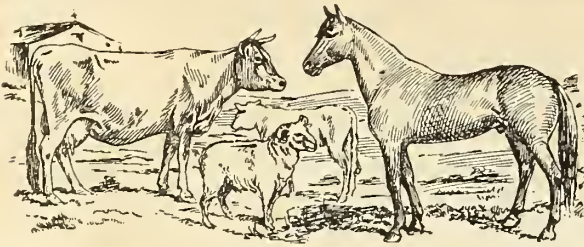
WE rejoice, says Hon. Daniel Dennett, of Brookhaven, Miss., agricultural editor of the New Orleans *Picayune*, to see the Farmers' Alliance present itself to the Legislature of Mississippi with a demand for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture and requiring the teaching of the rudiments of agricultural science in the public schools be enacted. It would need but little expense to introduce this new feature into the public schools.

THE members of an Alabama Alliance, one of their resolutions says, are democratic to the core, and can never be induced or driven to support the principles of the republican party of this country, the enemy of the agricultural classes, nor any of its whitewashed candidates. As to the freedom of the press, this Alliance takes a firm stand against the State Alliance organ, using this unequivocal language: "We live in a free country, and shall exercise the right to place our articles for publication wherever we see proper."

Let the Alliance movement, says the *American Agriculturist*, advance with sure and steady strides; but let it avoid the pitfalls that ever beset all efforts at popular cohesion. Let it learn wisdom by experience, gain knowledge by inquiry, and develop conservatism with the achievement of power. The spirit of co-operation is the fundamental motor of the farmers' movement, though this fact is as yet but faintly realized. But the benefits of co-operation will not result from magic. They will come only through years of earnest persistence intelligently concentrated, and directed in a business-like manner. Such a conservative, well-balanced co-operation can accomplish wonders for our far-finance, politics, education—in fact everything that goes to make farm life prosperous and happy.

THE master of the Alabama State Grange, in his annual address, thus refers to some of the principles and purposes of the Alliance: The times demand that the great army of organized farmers shall present an unbroken front with ballot in hand, and demand and enforce retrenchment and reform, and a return to first principles of government economically and fairly administered, with equal rights to all and special favors to none. That silver shall be placed upon its original and equal footing with gold, and that a sufficient supply of currency shall be furnished and maintained by the government as demanded by the National Grange and reiterated by the National Alliance, and all the farmer organizations of the country.

Stock Raisers' Column.



This column will be devoted to the interests of breeders and stock raisers, and especial attention will be paid to matters pertaining to the breeding and development of light harness and trotting horses. Correspondence is invited.

BREEDERS are beginning to find out, says the *Horses Review*, that when an uncommon color is controlled and transmitted by any family of horses or by a particular strain of blood the other qualities are also controlled in a marked degree. The most uncommon colors among trotting bred horses are roan and gray, and when either one of them is made a family characteristic the fact is worth noting. One of the most remarkable sires of speed at the trot, considering his opportunities, that the world has ever seen was Wood's Hambletonian, a son of Alexander's Abdallah, that spent all his life in a section of Pennsylvania where standard mares were unknown. That Wood's Hambletonian got plenty of trotters is well known, and it is a fact often commented upon that nearly all his 2:30 performers were roans. The sire of Wood's Hambletonian was a bay, but his dam was a little roan mare, of whose breeding nothing has ever been discovered. She was full of life, evidently a mare with a will of her own, and when mated with Alexander's Abdallah she produced a colt that in color took after its dam. That colt grew to be a noted sire, but the blood of its dam was the potent factor even in the second generation, nearly all his 2:30 performers being roans. Gray is a color that has been rendered famous in trotting annals by that most potent of all strains, the blood of Pilot, Jr. It has been noted in these columns how the gray mare Tackey, by Pilot, Jr., herself with a record of 2:26, produced the gray gelding Class Leaper 2:22½ and the gray stallion Pilot Medium, a wonderful sire, and now comes the gray stallion Alabaster, that as a four year old takes a record of 2:15, the best for an entire horse of that age. His sire, Aberdeen 27, was a bay, and so was the sire of his dam, Almont; but the grand-dam of Alabaster was a gray mare by Pilot, Jr. Bred to Almont she produced a gray filly, and when this filly was mated with Happy Medium the produce was the gray colt that has since acquired fame as Alabaster. A more striking instance of the power to control color could not be imagined. Such impressive sires as Almont and Happy Medium, both bays, and from ancestors that were bays or browns, failed to in any way change the color that came from the gray daughter of Pilot, Jr. In the case of Miss Russell, another gray mare by Pilot, Jr. that has become famous through the performances of her sons and daughters, the color of the old mare is prominent. She has always been mated with bay stallions. Her son, Nutwood is a chestnut, which color is a combination of bay and gray. Three of her fillies are grays and one son that has already gained distinction, Lord Russell, is a bay.

Turf Notes.

INFORMATION from Paris, Ky., says that James O. Gray, of Boston, a personal friend of C. H. Nelson, will likely obtain the stallion king, Nelson, 2:10¾, for his Kentucky stud at Paris, and that he will probably make next season there.

"As colt trotters," remarks the *Breeder's Gazette*, "the get of Electioneer have no rivals taken as a family, and the blood of Electioneer is to-day as valuable as that of any horse in the land, being equalled in this respect by the blood of George Wilkes alone.

A dispatch from Newcastle, Penn., says: "Messrs. Powell Brothers of Shadeland, Penn., have sold to Clark & Book, of Newcastle, Penn., the standard stallion St. Vincent, record, 2:30, for \$15,000 foaled 1884; sired by Wilkes Boy (2:24½), dam Aileen, by Mambrino Boy."

THE celebrated stallion Smuggler, died last week aged 27 years. His owner was F. G. Babcock of Hornellsville, N. Y. He had a record of 2:15½ which stood for many years as the fastest stallion record. Smuggler was not a decided success in the stud, although it is believed that his daughters will prove valuable as brood mares.

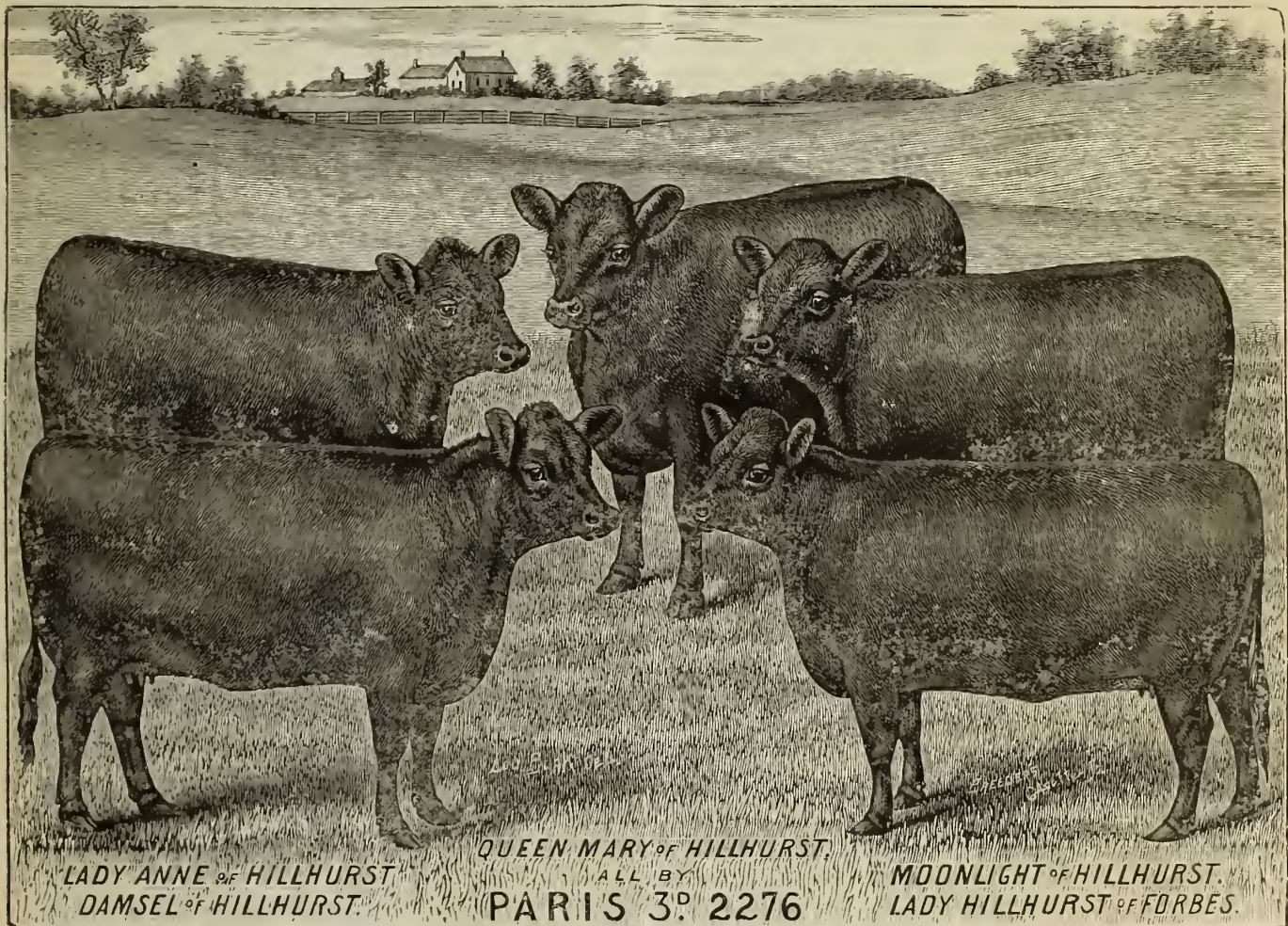
Simmons, foaled in 1879, by George Wilkes, is the greatest sire of trotters of his age that ever lived, judged by his get in the 2:30 list. He has fifteen that have performed in 2:20 or better. His next nearest rival is Pilot Medium, but he has three less. Guy Wilkes and Sidney have achieved wonders, and their average speed is faster. The get of Simmons are all from different dams.

Horse World: It is reported that Miss Russell, the dam of Maud S., 5:08½, is again in foal to King Wilkes. As she is now twenty-five years old, and has produced 18 foals, this is something remarkable, especially so, as in her twenty second year she was sent to the Pacific coast to be bred to Electioneer, and the next year made the trip back to Kentucky, having dropped one foal to Electioneer while in California, and being in foal to him again when she returned. Another great mare at Woodburn Farm is Primrose (dam of Princess, etc.). She, too, is twenty-five years old, and she has produced twenty foals, and she has never missed throwing a foal each year since she was first bred, excepting one. Another mare at the same farm that has produced is Dahlia (dam of Daureen, 2:21½), she, at the age of twenty-four, having produced seventeen foals. One of the most uniform producers at Palo Alto farm is the old pacer, Prussian Maid, 2:19. She has bred fifteen consecutive years, and produced fourteen foals. One of her foals is Prussian Boo, 2:26½. Another Palo Alto mare is Beautiful Bells, 2:29½. She has been bred eleven consecutive years, and has produced a foal every year, and four of the eleven foals have taken records faster than 2:30. Jessie Pepper (dam of Iona, 2:17½, etc.), produced seventeen foals, the last one when she was twenty-eight years old. Alma Mater (dam of Alcantara, 2:23, etc.), was first bred as a three year old, and has never missed getting in foal but once since, although one of her fourteen foals was premature. As if to prove that the vitality that enabled each of these great mares to produce so constantly, and up to such an old age, was the same vitality that is needed in a mare to produce foals that will be fast and game. Each one of these mares has thrown foals of varying degrees of speed, each one however (with one exception), being known as standing in the front ranks of the greatest brood mares that have been known.

CROSS-BREEDING AND HORNS.

MR. A. W. CHEEVER is one of our best agricultural and live stock writers. In the *New York Tribune* he recently had an article on cross breeding and horns. The wants of different farmers, he says, in different localities call for breeds of cows of varying characteristics. One wants the Short-horn, Hereford or Angus for beef making; another the Ayrshire or Holstein for market milk or the cheese factory, while a third desires the Jersey or Guernsey exclusively for the butter dairy. To cross these various breeds indiscriminately would be unwise, as the progeny would be likely to be less valuable

horns could be bred off without changing them in other regards. I could say the same of the larger sized, bardy, American-bred Jerseys. The average Red Polled Norfolk or Suffolk, as bred in England or at the West, is a little too beefy for exclusive dairy use. Now I claim that either the pure Jersey or pure Guernsey can have the horns bred off by judicious crossing with the Polled Suffolk selected from dairy herds without materially changing those breeds except in the removal of the horns and my own experience of more than twenty years will bear out the claim. I also claim that by use of Polled Angus bulls, the horns of the Short-horn could



for the special objects in view than were the parents. But while I am deeply opposed to indiscriminate crossing of pure breeds, I am equally decided in favor of crossing when one clearly sees opportunity for improving the stock he is breeding. To one perfectly satisfied with either of the pure breeds now before the public I can see no objection in crossing. There are animals and families enough of each breed in the country to permit sufficient exchange for keeping up vigorous constitutions without going outside the breed. But how is it with those not quite satisfied with either of the popular pure breeds? I would be satisfied with the Guernseys if their

be bred off in a brief time without any injury to the Short-horn blood—but not so of the herd books and registers; they would soon be worth little more than old junk. There has been too much breeding in this country to pedigree lines and with too little regard to real worth. Too many calves are raised among all the breeds that ought to have gone to the butcher at four weeks old, and would have gone but for the fact that registration brings a price far above the register's fee. I hope the day is not distant when calves of all the choice breeds will be so abundant that breeders and buyers will not feel that they cannot kill for veal anything that could possibly be registered.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS—THEIR PROPAGATION AND SUBSEQUENT MANAGEMENT.

Mr. John Donn, at the last meeting of the Gardener's Club, read a paper on this subject. He said: In selecting stock plants our practice is to secure strong root cuttings from plants that have bloomed out of doors or on benches, and if possible with roots already made, when they are potted right away into three inch pots. Cuttings that have no roots are rooted in sand in the usual way and potted when ready. They should be kept in a cool house, say from 50 to 55 degrees at night, and given air freely during the day when the sun shines and the outside temperature will admit of it. The young plants have to be watched closely with a view to watering, and spreading them out on the benches to get air and light in order to encourage strong root action. Note when the plant has filled the pot with roots, giving plenty of room for the action of light and air from the time the cutting is first potted until the plant is placed on the floor of the exhibition hall. Remove the plants from the greenhouse to a cold frame as early in spring as possible. About a week before doing so place the sash on the frame, keeping it closed in order to warm up the frame for the reception of the plants. After the plants are in the frames give air freely, being careful to avoid drafts. Remove the sash altogether whenever the outside temperature will permit.

Exercise great care in watering at this period; over-watering would be fatal to them. Should plants incidentally get a check from any cause, we invariably dump them out, as they seldom outgrow it. When the 1st of May is reached we consider the critical period past. Pinching and keeping plants in good shape is in order. Our practice is to grow our plants entirely out of doors.

In regard to soil and the use of manure through it, also the use of liquid manure, I may say to begin with I have tried a good many experiments which would serve no wise end to name in a paper like this, so I propose to confine my subject to the soil, its composition and the use of liquid manures, which have brought the best results in practice. To begin with, I maintain a good sod

pile is half the battle, and indispensable to a successful florist. I always make it a point to have one. At the right time—and the right time for us, has been from the 1st to the 15th of April—when the grass is about three inches high the whole is piled up keeping the grassy side down round the edges adding as we go on about one-sixth of well rotted manure, consisting of equal parts hogs, horse and cow. About three weeks afterward the pile is ready to turn over, having heated sufficiently to rot the grass and kill any seeds of weeds. We use it as wanted soon after screening it, using the portion that don't go through in the bottom of the pots over the drainage. The other which passes through we use in potting the plants, always potting firmly. We have been able to get sufficient soil at that season of the year to last us the remainder of the year, and we find in practice such soil has sufficient nutriment in it to sustain even chrysanthemums, so that they mature their flowers perfectly, without the aid of liquid manures in any form. Indeed we have found the use of liquid manures a positive injury to the plant, as it not only arrested in a measure root action, but what roots the plants made were weak compared with the roots of plants grown under the same conditions without the use of it. The only period at which we have been able to use manure in a liquid state to a slight advantage was after the plant had set its buds, the pot it was to flower in being well filled with roots.

The next point I wish to draw your attention to is pinching. What is meant by that is merely removing the smallest possible portion of the shoot in order to make the plant bushy. Pinching must be regulated by the grower. We cannot lay down any rules as to the formation of the plant by pinching. The most natural and beautiful plants I have seen in flower was grown from seedlings. They were never pinched, but grew straight up on one stem. About the middle of July they branched naturally all up the stem, which had only one stake to support the whole plant.

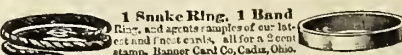
When early flowers are wanted early flowering kinds should not be pinched after July 15. In order to have the early kinds flower late, pinch as late as Sept. 1. Late blooming varieties should not

be pinched after July 1, if they are wanted to be in full bloom the first two weeks in November. By pinching later, late-flowering kinds may be in their glory December, 15. Of course they require protection,

Putting chrysanthemums in a house where artificial heat has to be used runs the flowers small and not true to color. Especially is this true of pink, bronze and garnet chrysanthemums. Young plants are always preferable to plant out from year to year. They are more robust and produce larger blooms and more of them. Those who have clumps in stool plants outside will find it to their advantage to divide them up early in spring and plant in new quarters, or where that cannot be done, enrich the soil where they have been and re-plant so as to avoid crowding. Strong tobacco water will keep chrysanthemums free from black fly, an aphid, and will also act on the roots as a good fertilizer.

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WOMAN'S CORNER.

✧ MRS. MARY L. GADDESS, ✧ EDITRESS.

This department of THE FARMER will be made of special worth to the ladies of the farmer's household. Fashions in dress, latest ideas of ornamentation, flowers, etiquette, and all subjects in which they may be interested will be fully discussed and in a chatty manner. MRS. GADDESS, the editress, a well-known writer of this city, cordially invites correspondence on matters of interest in this column and will answer any questions with pleasure.

We wish you all a happy New Year, and as a motto for the first page in the calender let us put, "We will make the best of everything." This may appear very hard, and seem easier to preach than to practice. But when we awaken in the morning with a long day's work before us, feeling tired and weary, let us remember how many are not able to get up at all, and the step will grow lighter and heart too, while we say, "thank God, for the blessings that are given us." Keep the same idea all the day as you work along and it will help through many weary places.

I read the other day of a woman who was perfectly miserable because of a crack in the wall from which she could not keep her eyes, as it happened to be in front of the seat where she always sat to sew. She hung a picture over the crack, but it was too long to be hidden. She patched it with other paper but it looked terrible. After exhausting her ingenuity in trying to cover it up, she at last turned her chair around so she could not see it. Nobody else noticed it, and she soon ceased to remember it was there.

I fancy if we'd simply refuse to see things very often we would be happier. Look the other way. None of us are so unhappily situated but thousands around us are in a worse plight. Let us start the new year determined to be contented and to make the most of what we possess be it much or little.

Usually after the holidays are over there comes a season of inaction. Winter work is all settled; it is too soon to think about Spring and it is a delightful time to renovate anything in the wardrobes that would look the better for modernizing and there is no difficulty now in so doing, as combinations are the thing. There is quite a rage for sleeves and collars of different color to the cloth in the dress itself. Some braid the plain sleeves with fine cord. Bodices are, many of them, fastened under the arms, and the front perfectly plain. It is more odd, certainly, than beautiful. The idea seems very ludicrous of "fastening a dress under the arms," yet it is quite a fad. The linings are cut and fitted as usual no matter whether the goods is buttoned or hooked behind, before, down the shoulders, or under seams; in fact, it don't in the least matter how you get into your costume so its odd.

Basques are longer especially on the hips. Mutton-leg

sleeves are still the favorite. Plaids are made up on the bias, almost entirely, while stripes are straight and should be worn by stout people exclusively. There is but one objection to the plain heavy cheviot cloth, they certainly do make large people look immense.

Astrakhan trims them exquisitely and is put on the front of skirt in about five-inch band straight across. These heavy goods are often made up without linings, which add so much to the weight, and this material sets well without it. Don't have them touch the ground. Polonaise are quite fashionable for this style of dress, fastened across bust diagonally. There is very little fullness in skirts, except in the boxplaits at the back width. Plain effect is much sought after. Black silk for some seasons past has almost disappeared from the list of fashionable fabrics. I am glad to say it has again become popular, for it is without exception the most desirable dress for a lady to buy who does not have a very large income to spend on herself. And for the wealthy, nothing can be more elegant. It can be brightened up with flowers and ribbons and you are dressed for a party or ball. You may wear a simple white collar and are dainty, womanly and sweet enough to charm the pulpit or the pew. And if you are called to sit with those who mourn, still the black silk is the most desirable thing to have.

An elegant velvet and silk costume is made like the cloth dresses with but little fullness, except perhaps on the hips. Two deep boxplaits in back, basque pointed front and back, fitted smoothly and arching well at sides; leg of mutton sleeves of black velvet, high on shoulders, vest of same; collar wired all round top and bottom, medici style, (the wire is the kind milliners use); sleeves long with lace frills to fall over hands; darts close together and tapering in at waist; collar can be made adjustable and only worn on dressy occasions. A small straight one is fastened on dress.

It is of course a great deal easier to tell about all these combinations that make pretty things than to work them out, for each and all entails hours of labor. But it is a woman's duty to try and look attractive just so long as it is possible, and a sacred duty to keep beautiful in the eyes of her loved ones. So with all the stitches that go into our daily tasks we keep the loving thought that working or resting, sewing or reading, we are doing our work that is daily given us to do. May the New Year find one and all thus doing their best.

MRS. M. L. GADDESS.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, DEC. 31, 1890

The holiday dullness in the wholesale markets has continued very marked. Southern wheat is firm and wanted at about previous prices while corn is in fair receipt and steady. Oats are plenty and at a lower range, while rye is quiet and unchanged. Flour is quiet and steady. Of seeds, clover is firm, with the others unchanged. Hay is steady, and eggs are higher, following lighter receipts:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Spot wheat..... | \$ 97 a97½.. |
| Southern Fultz | 95 a1 02. |
| Longberry..... | 98 a1 02. |
| Stock..... | 688,764. |
| Yellow corn..... | 54 a58.. |
| White do..... | 55 a58.. |
| Mixed Spot..... | 57 a... |
| Stock..... | 243,543 |
| Oats, whole range..... | 45 a49. |
| Stock..... | 63,455 |
| Rye, whole range..... | 74 a81 |
| Stock..... | 23,767 |
| Family Flour, per barrel.... | 4 50a5 50 |
| Clover Seed..... | 5½a 7½ |
| Timothy Seed..... | 110 a1 45 |
| Hay, per ton..... | 9 50a11 00 |
| Eggs, per dozen..... | 26a27.. |
| Butter, fancy roll.... | 18a19.. |
| Butter, prime to choice | 14a15. |
| Chickens, dressed..... | 8a10.. |
| Turkeys, dressed..... | 12a13½. |
| Ducks, dressed..... | 10a11. |
| Geese, dressed..... | 9a9½.. |
| Dressed Hogs..... | 4a5½.. |

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To introduce it and obtain agents the undersigned firm will give away a few of their \$5.00 German Electric Belts invented by Prof. Van der Weyde. Pres. of the New York Electrical Society [U. S. Pat. 257,647] a positive cure for nervous debility, Rheumatism, Loss of Power, &c. Address Electric Agency, P. O. Box 178, Brooklyn, N.Y. Write to them to-day.

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| Choice Sacred Solos. | 34 " |
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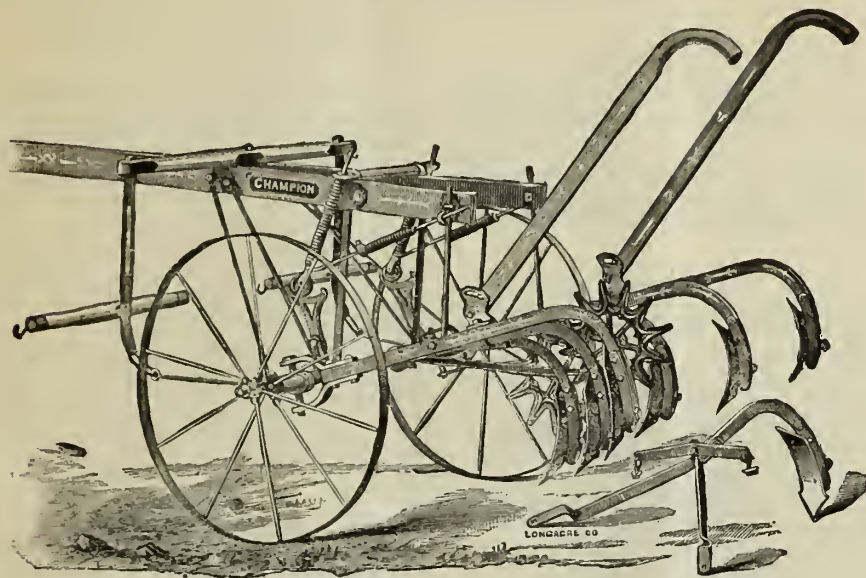
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In the familiar song, "Pull for the Shore," there is a line "Cling to self no more," which, as sung by the colored children in one of the schools, sounded strangely; and, on having it said slowly, it was discovered that they were singing, "Clean you self no more."—*American Missionary*.

Intelligent Compositor—That new reporter spells "victuals" "v-i-t-a-l-s."

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As a good looking Bostonian seated himself at a table in the dining-room at a Southern hotel, a traveling companion who had noticed that the waiter had looked them over pretty carefully when they came in—bountless calculating how much they were worth in chips—said to the Bostonian: "The darky thinks that you are a minister." When the waiter placed himself behind his chair the Bostonian remarked: "Say, Sambo, did you think I was a minister?" "No sar," was the prompt reply. "What did you think I was?" continued the good-looking Bostonian, spoiling for a compliment. The darky never moved a muscle as he replied: "I jess thought you was an ordinary man." It will be many a day before the Boston man will hear the last of that.—*Boston Home Journal*.

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